

# Appendectomy Episode

## Executive Summary

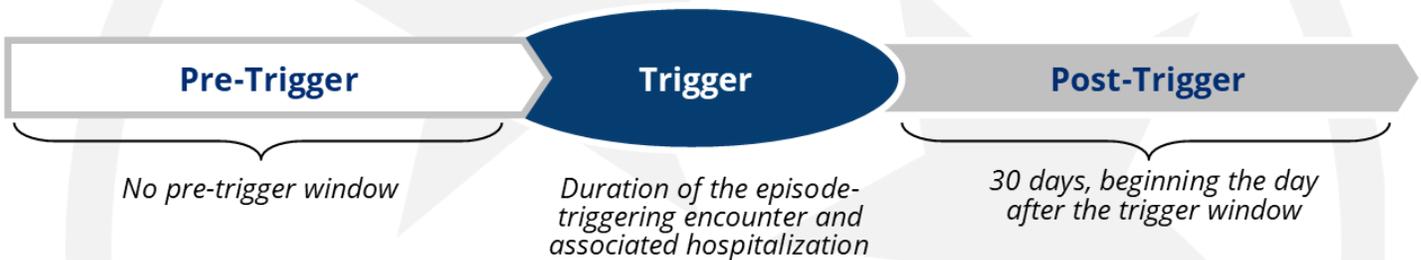
### Episode Design

- **Trigger:** appendectomy procedure
- **Quarterback type:** facility (appendectomy procedure site)
- **Care included:** all appendectomy-related care including anesthesia, imaging and testing, surgical and medical procedures, pathology, evaluation and management, and medications

### Sources of Value

- Appropriate pre-procedural imaging and testing
- Appropriate site of care for interventions
- Appropriate procedure selection
- Appropriate length of stay
- Appropriate follow-up care including imaging and laboratory tests
- Appropriate use of medications
- Appropriate post-acute care setting
- Reduction of complications and readmissions

### Episode Duration



### Quality Metrics

#### Tied to Gain-Sharing

- Abdominopelvic CT scans in children (lower rate is better)
- Difference in average morphine equivalent dose per day (lower rate is better)

#### Informational Only

- Average morphine equivalent dose per day during the pre-trigger opioid window
- Average morphine equivalent dose per day during the post-trigger opioid window
- Opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions
- Negative appendectomy
- Related follow-up care
- Related admission
- Related ED visit
- Complications

### Making Fair Comparisons

#### Exclusions

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., end-stage renal disease, ruptured appendix, DCS custody)
- Patient exclusions: age (less than 2 or greater than 64 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

**Risk adjustment** is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

To learn more about the episode's design, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.